Advertisements on cigarettes, tobacco and wine

†3956. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some advertisements of cigarettes, tobacco and wine were telecast/being telecast by private TV channels during last three years;

(b) whether obscene pictures are also being telecast on large scale by these channels;

(c) whether Government has received suggestions or memoranda to ban the telecast as such advertisements/obscene pictures or to impose legal ban on it during last three years till date; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No complaint of direct advertisement of such products has been brought to the notice of the Government. However, cases of brand extension advertisements have been noticed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Some complaints regarding advertisements of brand extension and obscenity have been brought to the notice of the Government from time to time. A Committee had been constituted for reviewing the existing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act 1955 and the rules framed thereunder to provide greater specificity to the provisions of existing codes. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 5.3.2008 which is available on the website of the Ministry *www.mib.nic.in* under the heading "Self Regulation Guidelines 2008." Government has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into specific violations of Programme and Advertising Codes which recommends action to be taken against the channels for such violation based on which decision is taken by the Government.

Asbestos factories and mines in the country

3957. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether asbestos is dangerous for the health and how many asbestos factories and mines operating in the country and the number of workers are working there;

(b) whether Government is also importing asbestos; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plan completely ban asbestos; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES); (a) Yes, Sir, prolonged exposure to asbestos is dangerous for the health. The State-wise information on number of asbestos factories registered under

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the Factories Act, 1948 and the workers employed therein is enclosed as Statement-I (*See* below). Only 2 asbestos mines are working in the country, with average daily employment of 50 persons.

(b) Yes, Sir, Government is importing asbestos. Country-wise details is enclosed as Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of 'c' above, does not arise.

Statement-I

State-wise information of number of asbestos manufacturing units in India under the Factories Act, 1948 and the workers employed therein

As on: December, 2006

Sl. No.	State/Uts	No. of Units	No. of workers
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil	-NA-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7	1889
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	-NA-
4.	Assam	2	45
5.	Bihar	Nil	-NA-
6.	Chandigarh	Nil	-NA-
7.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	-NA-
8.	Daman&Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	-NA-
9.	Delhi	6	231
10.	Goa	Nil	-NA-
11.	Gujarat	13	789
12.	Haryana	19	1300
13.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	-NA-
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	-NA-
15.	Jharkhand	2	153
16.	Karnataka	2	370
17.	Kerala	1	200
18.	Lakshadweep	Nil	-NA-
19.	Madhya Pradesh	11	610
20.	Maharashtra	24	1338

1	2	3	4
21.	Manipur	Nil	-NA-
22.	Meghalaya	Nil	-NA-
23.	Mizoram	Nil	-NA-
24.	Nagaland	Nil	-NA-
25.	Orissa	1	477
26.	Puducherry	Nil	-NA-
27.	Punjab	Nil	-NA-
28.	Rajasthan	5	61
29.	Sikkim	Nil	-NA-
30.	Tamil Nadu	8	1677
31.	Tripura	Nil	-NA-
32.	Uttar Pradesh	11	711
33.	Uttarakhand	Nil	-NA-
34.	West Bengal	9	1200

Statement-II

Country-wise details of importing asbestos

252400 Asbestos

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs				Quantity in thousand Kgs.			
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Apr.-Aug., 07)	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Apr.-Aug., 07)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Afghanistan TIS		11.86				72.00		
2.	Australia			50.89				337.00	
3.	Belgium			117.47				764.00	
4.	Brazil	4681.58	6236.62	9486.18	6653.57	25552.58	29882.65	37702.85	32577.00
5.	Canada	7881.93	6406.91	10689.75	5045.11	44893.63	33489.53	50244.29	25416.58
6.	China P RP	12.76	0.10	57.55	7.83	97.00	0.15	121.00	33.00
7.	Dominica	8.56				36.00			
8.	Greece	218.36				2159.40			
9.	Italy	50.83				392.00			
10.	Japan		0.04				0.25		
11.	Jordan			22.26				108.00	
12.	Kazakhistan	2663.51	2538.78	4597.78	1127.71	19446.33	16846.18	26814.81	6240.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13.	Kenya	15.92				100.00			
14.	Malaysia	3.23				16.00			
15.	Mozambique		17.74	70.57	48.72		108.00	342.00	252.00
16.	Poland	73.51	41.68	422.92	80.06	570.38	327.40	2384.00	419.00
17.	Russia	9567.34	18175.29	18107.03	10113.77	72123.00	114029.83	95939.12	58058.53
18.	Saudi Arab	2.39				22.00			
19.	South Africa	424.44	519.67	971.62	300.55	2386.00	2577.00	4512.00	1551.00
20.	Switzerland	5.51				35.00			
21.	Sri Lanka DSR			52.49				270.00	
22.	United Arab Emirates			2.71				20.00	
23.	United Kingdom		30.41	10.22			144.00	40.00	
24.	Ukraine	65.96			83.12	519.00			607.00
25.	U.S.A.		9.34	79.97			58.00	520.00	
26.	Zambia		149.14	49.16			714.00	194.40	
27.	Zimbabwe	1313.60	7361.70	7122.72	2621.88	8016.22	38244.61	33069.20	14096.25
28.	Unspecified	184.12			65.84	887.92			300.00
	TOTAL:	27173.54	41499.27	51911.29	26148.16	177252.46	236493.60	253382.27	139550.36

Legislation to curve the sexual harassment on workplace

3958. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state whether in view of the repeated sexual harassment and non-compliance of Hon'ble Supreme Court report, Government is prepared to bring legislation to curve the sexual harassment on work place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Ministry of Women and Child Development is preparing a draft bill regarding prevention and redress of sexual harassment of women at workplace.

Working hours lost due to strike

3959. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of working hours lost due to various strikes during the last financial year; and

(b) State-wise break-up thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Information on the working hours lost due to strikes are not maintained in the Ministry of Labour and Employment. However, based on the monthly returns received from the State Labour Departments/Regional Labour